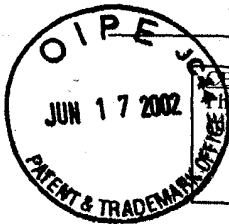


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SHIRAISHI et al. Examiner: Unknown
Serial No.: 10/055640 Group Art Unit: Unknown
Filed: 22 January 2002 Docket: 10873.867US01
Title: PIEZOCOMPOSITE, ULTRASONIC PROBE FOR ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC
EQUIPMENT, ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT, AND METHOD FOR
PRODUCING PIEZOCOMPOSITE



CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: , Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on June 12, 2002.

By: Kate Ryan
Name: Kate Ryan

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

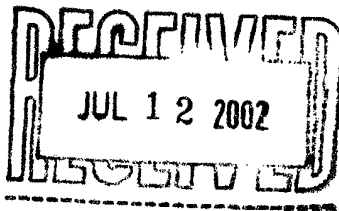
We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 10 Reference(s)
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By: Douglas P. Mueller
Name: Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No.: 30,300
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S/N 10/055640

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	SHIRAISHI et al.	Examiner:	Unknown
Serial No.:	10/055640	Group Art Unit:	Unknown
Filed:	01/22/2002	Docket No.:	10873.867US01
Title:	PIEZOCOMPOSITE, ULTRASONIC PROBE FOR ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT, ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT, AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING PIEZOCOMPOSITE		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 12 June 2002.

By: 

Kate Ryan

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application filed herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 4 on page 4 (beginning on line 24) with the following. A marked-up copy of the amended paragraph is attached for reference.

As another method, the following method has been disclosed in USP 4514247 and USP 4572981. Sintered ceramic plates are laminated and integrated using another material so as to form a block, and a sheet obtained by slicing the block is prepared as a first stratum. Then, the sheets are laminated and integrated again using another material that forms a second stratum, and the lamination is sliced, so that a 1-3 piezocomposite is obtained.

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